



# Addressing Equity

Joint Meeting  
November 4, 2021

# Equity Leaders



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# Joint Meeting Opportunities

- Deepen agency coordination to help support equitable, sustainable communities
- Align transportation and housing investments with climate, equity, and environmental justice goals
- Discuss how our agencies are addressing equity and environmental justice
- Improve our engagement with advocates and communities

# Commitments Linked to Action

- Equity and EJ commitments – we all have them, we all need to take action
- Solutions include equitable housing connected to transportation options so we can drive less
- Need to change how we make decisions related to transportation and housing and align investments with climate goals



# Implementing the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)

- Commitment to equity
- Support for infill housing development
- Infrastructure for projects that reduce VMT
- Will help shape our work on housing and VMT reduction
- Accountability is critical – first progress report at Joint Meeting in Fall 2022

# California Transportation Commission Equity Initiatives

- The California Transportation Commission recognizes that throughout California's history, improvements to the State's transportation system have disproportionately benefitted some population groups and burdened others. The Commission condemns all forms of racism and is actively working to promote equitable outcomes through our programs, policies, and practices.





# Legacies of Injustice

- In the mid-Twentieth Century, California undertook a major expansion of transportation infrastructure aided by an influx of federal funding
- While infrastructure improvements were being built, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color were disenfranchised, and were underrepresented in government decision-making.



# Interagency and Partner Collaboration

- Build and strengthen relationships with community-based organizations, non-profits, advocacy organizations, and other equity experts and practitioners;
- Empower the Equity Advisory Roundtable to help inform transportation decision making;
- Strengthen understanding of community transportation needs and challenges through the forthcoming Community Listening Sessions;





# Interagency and Partner Collaboration

- Ensure equity, public health, and robust public engagement via our planning and programming guidelines;
- Expand opportunities for Commissioner and staff training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Feature equity topics and elevate diverse perspectives in public meetings of the Commission.



# Interagency Collaboration

- Equity Advisory Roundtable and future Equity Advisory Committee(s)
  - Coordination and collaboration between CTC, Caltrans and CalSTA
  - Intended to support interagency equity initiatives





# Expanding Opportunities

- Realizing equity goals will require increased interagency coordination and staffing resources
  - Adequate resources are a critical to success



# Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing



California Department of Housing and Community Development



# What is Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing?

*Assembly Bill 686 (2018) defines Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing as, “taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics”.*

*“The duty to affirmatively further fair housing extends to all of a public agency’s activities and programs relating to housing and community development.”*

*(Gov. Code, § 8899.50, subd. (a)(1).)*



# What is Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing?

**Specifically, these meaningful actions must aim to accomplish the following:**

- Address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity;
- Replace segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns;
- Transform racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity;
- Foster & maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.



# The Need for AFFH

- **Despite prohibitions against housing discrimination, forces driving residential segregation persist today.**
- **Racially explicit practices replaced by more subtle methods.**
  - These include single family & exclusionary zoning policies and placing affordable housing in low-resource neighborhoods.
  - Practices such as these continue to reinforce spatial segregation of low-income and communities of color in California.

# Assembly Bill 686 (2018)

- **Establishes an independent state mandate for all CA public agencies to adhere to AFFH, regardless of future federal actions**
  - Mandates state, local public agencies to facilitate deliberate action to explicitly address & combat disparities resulting from past patterns of segregation to foster inclusive communities.
  - **All public agencies must administer programs and activities relating to housing and community development, broadly defined, in a manner that AFFH and take no action inconsistent with AFFH.**
  - Creates new requirements for housing elements due to be revised on or after January 1st, 2021.



# AFFH Requirement for Public Agencies

- **Public Agency - Construed Broadly**
  - Housing Programs, Departments, and Agencies
  - Community Development Agencies
- **Programs and Activities – Also a Big Tent**
  - Implementing regulations
  - Technical assistance

# Thank you

- Clarifying questions?